

**USHJA Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**January 7, 2019 – 6:00 p.m. ET via Teleconference**

Members Participating: Mary Babick, John Bahret, Katie Benson, Robin Brown, David Distler, Joe Dotoli, Margie Engle, Dianne Johnson, Britt McCormick, Cheryl Rubenstein, Charlotte Skinner-Robson

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Kevin Price, Leslie Mangan

I. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted and a quorum was met.

II. Adoption of Agenda

*A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion was unanimously approved.*

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2018 Executive Committee meeting, as presented. The motion was approved by majority vote with abstentions recorded from those individuals either absent or not yet seated on the committee at the time of the meeting.*

IV. Consideration of Mileage Exemption Requests

World Equestrian Fall Series I (“Applicant Competition”) vs. Chagrin Valley Farms (“Priority Competition”)

No conflicts of interest on the part of any of the Executive Committee members in attendance were identified with respect to this request.

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 189.30 miles with a mileage boundary of 50 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the mileage conflict involves the Hunter rating only; there is no conflict for the requested Jumper Level rating.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition did not submit a timely response to the Applicant’s request for mileage exemption, but that response (once received) did communicate approval of the Applicant’s request.
- The committee acknowledges that USHJA would not have been requested to review this application had the Priority Competition submitted its response paperwork in a timely manner.

- That said, the committee has concerns about whether there are sufficient competitors in this geographic area at this time of year to adequately support and sustain a competition at the Applicant's requested rating without negatively impacting the Priority Competition.
- Despite that concern, the committee sees no reason to advise against the Priority Competition's willingness to grant permission to the Applicant's request.

*At the end of discussion, the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (September 25-29) at the Premier Hunter/Level 2 Jumper rating.*

Old Salem Farm ("Applicant Competition") vs. Stepping Stone Farm ("Priority Competition")

No conflicts of interest on the part of any of the Executive Committee members in attendance were identified with respect to this request.

The committee considered the following in its review:

- The committee noted the radial mileage between the Applicant and the Priority Competition is 3.38 miles with a mileage boundary of 40 miles.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the mileage conflict involves the Hunter rating only; there is no conflict for the requested Jumper Level rating.
- The committee noted from the materials provided that the Priority Competition ultimately denied the Applicant's request, after initially informally communicating to the Applicant it would grant permission.
- The committee also noted from the materials provided that although the Priority Competition holds a Regional II Hunter/Jumper Level 1 rating, the majority of its proposed class offerings are unrated and/or unrecognized.
- The committee's opinion is that, despite its close proximity, the Applicant Competition, if approved, would be providing different class offerings and serving a different constituency of competitors than the Priority Competition.
- That said, the committee feels that limiting the Applicant's ability to offer unrated/unrecognized classes on the same day the Priority Competition runs might mitigate any potential impact on the Priority Competition. Therefore, the committee recommends the Applicant Competition, if approved, be restricted from offering any unrated/unrecognized Hunter or Equitation classes on September 21, 2019.

*A motion was made and seconded to recommend **approval** of the Applicant's request to conduct its 2019 competition (September 19-21) at the Local (non-rated)/Level 1 Jumper rating, **with the stipulation that no unrated/unrecognized Hunter or Equitation classes be held on September 21, 2019**. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

V. Consideration of Limiting Entries (HJ400) and Mandatory Fee Collection Requests

*A motion was made and seconded to place the Limiting Entries and the Mandatory Fee Collection request on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved by those present.*

- **HJ400: 2019 CPHA West Coast Green Hunter 3’/3’3” Incentive & Championship**  
 The committee members confirmed that this most recent application did not contain any new or updated requests as compared to prior years’ applications, and that the classes and championship have always been eligible for HOTY points.  
*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Limiting Entries request for the 2019 CPHA West Coast Green Hunter 3’/3’3” Incentive Series and Championship.*
- **HJ400: 2019 Challenge of Champions at the Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show**  
 The committee members confirmed that this most recent application did not contain any new or updated requests as compared to prior years’ applications.  
*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Limiting Entries request for the 2019 Challenge of Champions at the Blowing Rock Charity Horse Show.*
- **Mandatory Fee Collection Request – Pacific Coast Horse Shows Association**  
 The committee reviewed the mandatory fee collection request submitted by PCHA for 2019. Ms. Babick notified the committee she will speak to the Federation while at the USEF Annual Meeting regarding the need to investigate and potentially modify process associated with the collection of mandatory non-USEF fees.  
*At the end of discussion, the Executive Committee members present voted unanimously to recommend approval of PCHA’s request to collect of fee of \$3 per horse at PCHA-sanctioned competitions in 2019.*

#### VI. Approval of Extraordinary Rule Change Proposals

*A motion was made and seconded to place consideration of the Extraordinary Rule Change Proposals on the floor for discussion and vote. The motion was unanimously approved.*

The committee reviewed two Extraordinary Rule Change proposals (EOs) drafted to address conflicts between the current USEF Rule Book and the USHJA program specifications for Green Hunter Incentive and Pony Hunter Derby. These EOs were drafted at the request of the Federation as a next step to the Presidential Modifications to these same rules submitted in early December.

- **HU169 Green Hunter Incentive**

The current USEF Rule Book indicates Green Hunter Incentive classes are eligible for Zone and National HOTY points, but does not indicate how those points will be allocated across stake classes, regional championship classes, and the Green Incentive Championships. The purpose of this EO is to insert the Zone and HOTY point charts into the Rule Book to ensure proper calculation of points.

*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members voted unanimously to approve the Extraordinary Rule Change to HU169 Green Hunter Incentive, as presented.*

- **HU170 USHJA Pony Hunter Derby**

The current USHJA Specifications have added one additional point per pony entered to the base points earned, but this point information is not included in the current USEF Rule Book.

The purpose of this EO is to insert the appropriate language to indicate that one additional point per pony entered will be added to both the base Zone HOTY points and the base National HOTY points earned.

*Hearing no discussion, the Executive Committee members voted unanimously to approve the Extraordinary Rule Change to HUI170 USHJA Pony Hunter Derby, as presented.*

VII. Old Business

None

VIII. New Business

An observation was made regarding the low level of committee member attendance at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Concerns were raised about the fact that several task forces could not establish a quorum and were unable to conduct committee business and this reflected poorly on the Association. A suggestion was made that attendance at Annual Meeting should be a requirement of committee service. Other Executive Committee members indicated that minimally, the committee chairs should be required to attend Annual Meeting. Ms. Babick communicated that currently, no language exists within the organization's governance documents that mandates Annual Meeting attendance, but she went on to report that one of the newly seated Planning Committee's objectives is to review the current governance documents. The committee is tasked with providing their findings and recommendations for modification at the May, 2019 in-person Board meeting.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn, and the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. EST.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Dianne Johnson, Secretary